

KENSINGTON PRESS

DECEMBER 2018 JANUARY 2019

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ:

Celebrations don't just happen. Parties don't plan themselves. When we decide truly to enjoy something, we make a series of intentional choices to carve out space for it in our lives. We set aside time, we reprioritize our calendar and we ready our hearts for the fun that awaits. We make room for it.

Advent is the beginning of the Church calendar, and the season leading up to Christmas. It includes the four Sundays before Christmas. Advent is about making room in our lives for Jesus. The word Advent is Latin in origin and means "the appearing" of something important. Through the reflection and prayer, parties and presents of Advent, we, the followers of Jesus, set aside space in our hearts to appreciate the anniversary of the appearance of Jesus Christ, so many years ago in Bethlehem.

It's also a time for us to look forward. We know that the world as it is isn't the world God hopes for us and to which God beckons us. We trust that God intends to fulfill all God's promises, the promises so beautifully described by the Old Testament prophets: one day, "justice [will] roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream," (Amos 5:24); one day, "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid" (Micah 4:3-4).

So Advent invites us to consider, in this place and time, in San Anselmo in December 2018 ...

- How might we make room for hope?
- How might we make room for peace?
- How might we make room for joy?
- How might we make room for peace?

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SAN ANSELMO

Advent & Christmas Eve



Musical Concert: *O Magnum Mysterium*
December 9, 10:00 am

Tidings of Comfort
A service of contemplation, comfort & hope
December 13, 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve Services

Family Service & Pageant, 6:00 pm

Lessons & Carols Candlelight Service, 9:00 pm
followed by carols, cookies and hot cider

First Presbyterian
SAN ANSELMO

72 Kensington Road San Anselmo, CA 94960
www.togetherweserve.org

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Report on Puerto Rico Mission Trip, p 13
...and much more!



FAMILY MINISTRIES

Heather's Notes for December 2018

Happy Advent!

Time sure flies, doesn't it? It feels like yesterday I was meeting you all for the first time, and now it's almost the end of the year.

It's been a wonderful few months for our Youth, with many opportunities to help serve the community and have fun! Coming on December 2, the Youth are hosting a **Parents' Afternoon Out**, from 12pm-3pm in Duncan Hall, to help take care of kids while parents go shopping, get some wrapping done, or even just have some time to themselves. Starting December 9, we'll be having rehearsals each Sunday for the Christmas Eve pageant, and we need **YOUR** help! We'll need some people to help fill in for the roles of Joseph, Mary, the Wise men, etc. in case we don't have enough little ones to fill the parts! Also, if you'd like to volunteer in other ways (like set building, costuming, etc.) that's just fine, too! Join us in the sanctuary after worship at 11:30 December 9 and we can get parts assigned and working orders. This year's pageant will be a bit more of a modern spin on the traditional story, and it should be quite entertaining!

If you have any questions, please let me know! You can contact me anytime at my email: hcgordon16@gmail.com.

Advent Blessings to you all, and a very Merry Christmas!

Heather



Heather's Notes for January 2019

Happy New Year, church family! I want to start off by saying a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped to plan, organize, build, and act in the Christmas pageant! It couldn't have happened without your help, and I am truly thankful for such a wonderfully giving church community.

January is a bit more relaxed after the busyness of the holidays, but no less enjoyable! Youth activities will be determined by availability (my own, as well as Youth), and I'll let you all know as we plan them! January will be a bit hectic for me, and here's why: Sunday, January 13th, I'll be preaching from Isaiah and Luke on the Baptism of Jesus Christ. I hope to see you there! Also in January, I'll be completing two of my required ordination exams to progress on my journey through seminary to ordination! Your prayers and well-wishes are much appreciated as I continue to work and serve God.

In February, as some of you may know, our church is hosting the presbytery meeting for the Presbytery of the Redwoods. The Youth are volunteering with set-up, clean-up, serving, and much more! So Youth, please remember to let me know if you'll be helping in any way so I can give Session an idea of how many helpers we have.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me using my email at hcgordon16@gmail.com or my cellphone at (661) 972-5481.



...from the Choir

O Magnum Mysterium!

("Oh, great mystery!")
With a group of enthusiastic choir singers and instrumentalists, FP Music Director Daniel Canosa

will lead the choir and orchestra in three versions of the famous text on Sunday, December 9th, the second Sunday in Advent. We celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus when the animals ("ut animalia") found him lying in a manger, as interpreted by Javier Busto, Morten Lauridsen, and Ola Gjeilo. Then for Christmas Eve worship service, the chancel choir will sing the truly sublime version of **O Magnum Mysterium** by Tomás de la Victoria.

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year from the FP Chancel Choir!

PS: Check out the Reports from Berlin by Sally and Maggie, on pages 10 and 11!

THEATRE OUTINGS

Ross Valley Players' "The Odd Couple" December 16th, 2pm

Join Theatregoers for Ross Valley Players' production of Neil Simon's comedic classic, "The Odd Couple" on Sunday, December 16th, at 2:00pm in "The Barn Theatre" at the Marin Art and Garden Center, Ross. Polar opposite friends, Felix Unger and Oscar Madison, become housemates, with frustrating, but hilarious results! Directed by Mike Reynolds and Jay Krohnengold, the obsessively neat Felix and the free spirited Oscar will keep you laughing at their antics! Tickets \$27 or \$22 for 12+. Please let Maureen Kalbus know, by December 9th, if you are interested in the theatre outing: maureenkalbus@comcast.net, or (415) 444-0302.



LIFE STORIES

Here is a poem from our own award-winning Lauren Swalberg, a relative newcomer to the Life Stories Group, though she is not new to writing. Enjoy!

Glue

*I see your broken pieces
I almost step on their sharpness
I want to be their healing glue*

*I know you're weary
I understand every part of you
I want to be your shoulder*

*I know your heart aches
trying to make sense of it all
but I won't let you fall
Let me be your remedy*

Lauren Scott (c) 2018

OLDER ADULTS



Valentine Tea on February 9th, at 2:00pm

Our annual Valentine Tea will be on Saturday, February 9th at 2:00pm in the Fireside Room. Everyone is welcome at this English tea. We will enjoy delicious food, teas and fellowship. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for fun and fellowship. There is no cost for the tea, but we ask that you bring a donation for the Marin Food Bank Barrel. Watch the bulletin for signups or call Martha Spears at (415) 342-2578, to let us know you are coming,

RESOURCES

Capital Campaign Update

We have been blessed with wonderful buildings and grounds here in the heart of Marin County. They are a gift to us from the saints who have gone before us. 18 months ago, we launched a three-year \$400,000 capital campaign to improve, remodel, and repair our buildings to make them more welcoming, functional, and energy efficient. We have accomplished the following:

- Put new roofs and skylights on the office and preschool buildings
- Installed a new commercial dish washer in the Duncan Hall kitchen
- Transformed the sanctuary building basement "youth room" into a "Music Together Marin" studio
- Improved sanctuary building heating by installing new valves, temperature controls, and a new water heater
- Replaced rotten wood on Landon Court stair edging and concrete and improved drainage
- Replaced Duncan Hall fluorescent lights and Sanctuary pendant lights with energy efficient LEDs
- Remodeled and refurbished the sanctuary basement bathroom
- Decluttered, painted, and provided new lighting for the sanctuary basement hallway
- Signed a contract to improve and replace all the lighting for the chancel and choir area
- Signed a contract to replace all the fluorescent and incandescent lights in all our buildings with energy efficient LEDs

The capital campaign has raised about \$195,000 and spent about \$90,000 on capital campaign projects to date. We have probably saved about \$25,000 by having Tom Lannert and volunteers help with much of the remodeling, repairing, and painting work.

Many of the projects in the first half of the capital campaign have been in areas that are hardly seen or noticed by many people in our congregation. The second half of our campaign will concentrate on our most visible and highly used areas in the sanctuary building, including:

- Remodeling and providing heat and instant hot water to the Narthex men's and women's rooms
- Refurbishing and painting chancel area bathrooms and remodeling the Fireside room bathroom
- Constructing a new ADA compliant Narthex bathroom and making all bathrooms more handicapped accessible
- Painting and improving the Narthex and Fireside room to make these areas more welcoming
- Installing a new video projector and screen for the sanctuary
- Repair selected roof areas of Duncan Hall and the sanctuary building
- Patching and repainting exterior and interior walls
- Landscaping improvements
- Adding more solar panels

The incredible generosity of this congregation has made all these projects possible; there is no way that this work could be done within the constraints of the annual operating budget. We thank everyone for contributing money to the capital campaign and volunteering to help do much of the work so that we can be faithful stewards of the buildings that were given to us by previous generations.

Together We Build,
Dave Jones

"The incredible generosity of this congregation has made all these projects possible; there is no way that this work could be done within the constraints of the annual operating budget."

green Chautauqua

**Dahr Jamail, Author of "The End of Ice"
in conversation with Peter B. Collins
Saturday, February 2nd, 7:30pm to 9:00pm**

Dahr Jamail, award-winning journalist and mountaineer, will speak about his new book, **"The End of Ice"**, a firsthand chronicle of the catastrophic impact of climate change to our planet's wild and fragile places.

After nearly a decade overseas as a war reporter, Dahr Jamail returned to America to renew his passion for mountaineering, only to find that the slopes he had once climbed have been irrevocably changed by climate disruption. In response, Jamail embarks on a journey to the geographical front lines of this crisis—from Alaska to Australia's Great Barrier Reef, via the Amazon rainforest—in order to discover the consequences to nature and to humans of the loss of ice.

About

Dahr Jamail, a Truthout staff reporter, is the author of *Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches from an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq*. Jamail has reported from the Middle East over the last ten years, and he has won the Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism. He lives in Washington State.

Peter B. Collins is a syndicated talk show based at KRXA in Monterey, California and via listener-supported podcasts.



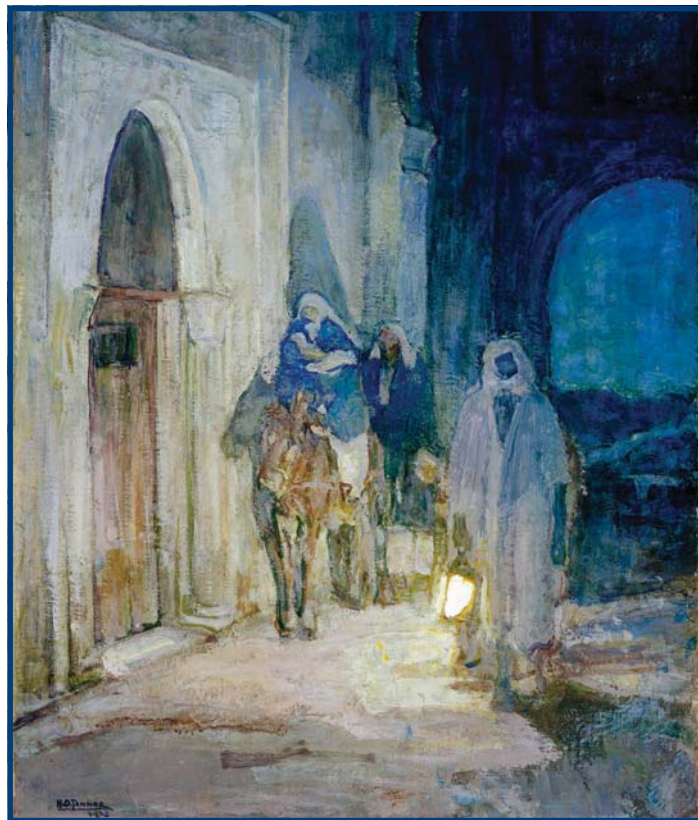
SUNDAY SEMINARS

Sanctuary = Accompaniment

There is an interfaith network of congregations in Marin whose focus is to "protect and provide aid to families who are going through the process of detainment and deportation." Originally it was called a sanctuary network, but since the major portion of its work consists of accompaniment, it now calls itself the Network of Accompaniment Congregations. It is natural for us, with our emphasis on hospitality, to consider joining that network.

The network will provide transportation, food, financial help, logistics, advocacy and education, spiritual and emotional support, language skills and "other" skills to families that are being detained and/or are under threat of deportation. If we were to join, we would survey our own skills and resources, add those to the contributions of other congregations and be on-call for prompt action when a situation arises.

A member of the network will explain how the organization works and answer questions at a Sunday Seminar after worship January 6th. Please come and learn more about preparing to help our neighbors in the immigrant community.



Flight Into Egypt (1923), by Henry Ossawa Tanner

Advent Coat Drive

One of the Advent lectionary Scripture passages this year includes this directive from John the Baptist: "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." (Luke 3:11) During Advent this year, we will join with the organization **One Warm Coat** in sponsoring a coat drive. We will invite the congregation and our surrounding neighborhood to contribute new and gently used coats for those who need them. Coats are needed for men, women and children. We will contribute the coats we gather to **North Marin Community Services**, a local Novato organization whose mission is: "We empower youth, adults and families in our diverse community to achieve well-being, growth and success." Their vision is "A strong community with opportunities for all."



Beginning in December, coats may be dropped off in the church office during office hours, or in the church library on Sunday mornings. We have registered with One Warm Coat, which provides tools for promoting and publicizing the coat drive. Our coat drive web page

can be found at <https://www.onewarmcoat.org/coat-drive-details/?e=a0Z0y000000LEtMQ>.

We'll celebrate and dedicate the coats collected on Family Sunday, December 16.



10 Things Christians Can Do to Make the World Safer for Our Jewish Friends

by Jim Rigby, October 28, 2018

The Rev. Jim Rigby is the pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas. St. Andrew's is a progressive congregation with a decades-long commitment to social justice ministry. Rigby has a nationwide (and perhaps beyond) presence on Facebook. He published these "10 Things Christians Can Do..." on Facebook the week after the shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh; they are words of wisdom in an era of increasingly visible white supremacy that includes anti-Semitism.

1. Don't use the word "Christian" as an synonym for "kindness" or "integrity." While we may not mean to do so, such language implies non-Christians do not have such qualities.
2. Don't repeat the narrative that the Jews killed Jesus. The cross was a ROMAN method of execution. The word "Jew" is often used to translate the Greek text, but that doesn't make any sense. Almost everyone in the story was Jewish. Jesus was a Jew. The religious leaders in the story had sold out their Jewish faith. This Easter ask your pastor to use words like "Judean" to translate that Greek term.
3. Learn and repent of the history of Christian anti-Semitism. John Calvin called Jewish people "snakes." Martin Luther wrote a book called, "On the Jews and their Lies." Hitler's Holocaust might never have happened had not such hateful theologies laid the foundation.
4. Be careful with the theology of Jesus as Messiah. While Jesus may play the central role in the Christian narrative, we must not appropriate an important image from Judaism as if Jewish people did not understand their own prophecies.
5. Ask your minister to use the phrase "Christian Scriptures" instead of "New Testament," and "Jewish Scriptures" instead of "Old Testament." The idea that Christianity has displaced Judaism is very disrespectful.
6. Be careful with the word "Pharisee." While you may not mean it, in an anti-Semitic culture that word can be a stereotype for what people really think of the Jewish religion.
7. Listen to your Jewish friends as they express their



In a Stable (1968), by Éric de Saussure

CHURCH & SOCIETY

faith in their own words. Do not ask them to live in your stereotypes about Judaism.

8. Do not speak of the God of Jewish scripture as cruel, and that of the Christian scripture as kind. The Christian notion of hell is infinitely crueler than anything in Jewish theology.
9. Realize that, in an anti-Semitic culture, words like "globalist" and "Zionist" can be vessels for anti-Semitism.
10. Love your Jewish friends as Jews, not as potential converts to Christianity.



FPCSA Hosts Demonstration Project for Reducing Church Carbon Emissions

Parish Associate Rev. Douglas Olds has received approval from San Francisco Theological Seminary, as part of his Doctor of Ministry dissertation, to research guiding local faith-based institutions toward decarbonizing their operations and take on a more visible and viable social role in presenting their witness against Climate Injustice.

On September 25, 2018, Session voted to approve hosting this project. Doug will audit the carbon emissions of the church's activities, share this audit's report, analysis, and recommendations with the congregation, preach and introduce spiritual practices on this pressing global issue, and extend his methodology and deliberative theological practice to a Working Group selected from representatives of Marin Interfaith Council's Climate Action, including St. John's Episcopal, Ross; Marin Unitarian Universalist; First Presbyterian San Rafael; and Congregation Kol Shofar.

Doug has also solicited an Advisory Group for his project from FPCSA's Climate Action Team. This group will consider and collect critical feedback from congregants regarding the significance and avenues for improving this demonstration project so that it can be contextualized for 2nd generation replication. Doug hopes that members will be stimulated to engage ideas with him during the next 8-12 months as he develops this project. He thanks the leadership of FPCSA for hosting and enabling this ministry project.

The Rev. Douglas Olds' Sermon Series on Decarbonizing Church and Society:

- 12/30/18: On humanity's violation of nature's intrinsic value from Creation by humanity's failing God's trust. Names fracking as the exemplary, contemporary evil, links it to sexual violence and degraded human moral agency, and frames it inside human idolatry. Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:22-26 and Psalm 148
- 6/16/19: Names space industrialization and militarization as the most recently emerging economic threat to the atmosphere. Frames climate change as a challenge demanding human development of social and personal virtue; links idol fabrication with rocketry and the luxury-producing economy. Scripture: Psalm 104 and Isaiah 44.9-20.
- 6/23/19: Sustaining moral agency in the context of deepening despair from the acceleration of negative climatological news. Frames "dying in the Anthropocene" within the cultivation of hopefulness, resistance, and awareness of movement connectivity, names God's Holy Spirit in the development of Atmospheric Fellowship, and links them to politically connected activism and householding behavioral commitments. Scripture: tbd.



Traveling Nativity Scene, Sundays in Advent (Plus Epiphany)

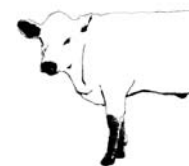


Each Sunday during Advent, we'll add figures to the nativity scene on the chancel. The figures will appear in the order of the stories in the Bible. But first, the figures need to be found! They will be hidden in the sanctuary, a new figure or set of figures each Sunday, waiting for the child who has a sharp eye and curious mind.

We'll finish the nativity scene on January 6, the Twelfth Day of Christmas or Epiphany, the day we traditionally celebrate the arrival of the Magi.

Look for these figures on these dates:

- December 2:** Mary and the angel
- December 9:** Joseph
- December 16:** The shepherds and the animals in the stable
- December 23:** The manger and the baby Jesus
- January 6:** The magi



WORSHIP



Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

- **The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions:** provides critical financial and housing assistance to qualifying retired members of the Benefits Plan, and financial and vocational assistance to eligible workers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- **Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges:** the importance of the racial ethnic schools and colleges of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is demonstrated in the continuing partnership between the two entities. The institutions have provided quality education to people who have contributed immeasurably to the church at large and to the world. Students are educated for the professions of their choice in an environment which supports and nurtures racial and ethnic heritage.
- **Racial Ethnic Leadership Development:** in Racial Ethnic Leadership Development, we help plan, coordinate and promote racial ethnic and women's leadership institutes. Leadership institutes identify, equip and connect racial ethnic women and men, who are teaching and ruling elders, with leadership opportunities in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This ministry also strengthens and nurtures the gifts of racial ethnic leaders, and inspires them to greater leadership roles in congregations, mid councils and in General Assembly agencies.

This year, the Christmas Joy Offering will be taken up on December 23rd.

Neutral Pulpit, December 2

In the Presbyterian Church, when a congregation is searching for a new pastor, at some point before offering a candidate the position, the pastor nominating committee will want to do extensive, in-person interviews and hear the candidate preach. This has given rise to what is called a "neutral pulpit." A potential candidate and a search committee agree to come to a neutral site in order to hear the pastor preach a sermon. An acquaintance from a Lutheran setting refers to this as a "chaperoned date." It has also been compared to an audition.

Most typically, a church within the presbytery of the searching church or a nearby presbytery is selected as the site for the neutral pulpit. On December 2, our congregation will serve as a neutral pulpit. We will host a guest preacher who is being considered for a position at a Bay Area church. We will not announce the name or location of the church, which needs to remain confidential to avoid news getting back to a congregation "through the grapevine." The decision of whether to advance a prospective pastor in the pastor nominating process is up to the seeking congregation's pastor nominating committee, and grapevine communications could interfere with that process.



Cookie hospitality on Christmas Eve: What could be more welcoming?

FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols Followed by Hot Cider and Cookies

Following the Christmas Eve service, all are invited to enjoy hot cider, cookies and carol singing on the patio (weather permitting) or in the Fireside Room. Come celebrate the season!

We welcome your contributions of cookies for this event; please drop off in the kitchen on Sunday the 23rd. Please contact Martha Joyce for questions, marols@leapgroup.com.

TUESDAY WELLNESS DINNERS

Street Chaplaincy Meal Program Kicks Off

Thank you to the many cooks, coordinators, and setter-uppers who made the first Street Chaplaincy Meal Program a success. For more information about how you can help serve the homeless, post-REST, please contact the most capable Volunteer Coordinator for the Street Chaplaincy dinners, our very own Joy Snyder: volunteers@streetchaplaincy.org. 415-758-7155



HIGH NOTES

A Concert for Peace

by Sally Johnson

In commemoration of the centenary of the end of the First World War, singers and instrumentalists gathered together in Berlin to sing and play for world peace. Even after the end of that terrible war tensions still arise between countries. But music can unite nations and strengthen the bond between them. As part of the celebration of this occasion, ***The Armed Man: a Mass for Peace***, by Welsh composer, Sir Karl Jenkins, was performed on Nov. 2nd, 2018. 2500 Choristers came from 35 countries. Among them were three singers from our church, Maggie McDowell, Lorna Roulston and Sally Johnson. Karl Roulston and Alan Johnson shepherded them. The chorus was accompanied by The World Orchestra For Peace, which was first formed by conductor Georg Solti in 1995 with international instrumentalists. It has been designated a UNESCO ARTIST FOR PEACE.

Several years ago Daniel Canosa, our director of music, led the choir in singing ***The Armed Man*** in our church. Subsequently our choir was invited to join a large massed choir in Carnegie Hall in New York City to perform this work. Both of these performances had a visual component as did the Berlin performance. It displayed images of the horror of war and increased the desire for peace.

The final piece in this Mass, is titled, "Better in Peace, and the text includes writings by Alfred Lord Tennyson and the Book of Revelations from the Bible.

Better is peace then always war
And better and better is peace

Ring out the thousand wars of old
Ring in the thousand years of peace

God shall wipe away all tears
And there shall be no more death nor sorrow

Praise the Lord

(Excerpted)

Some of my thoughts: Singing *The Armed Man, a Mass for Peace*, in Berlin
By Maggie McDowell

Music, like other forms of art, transcends the barriers that divide humanity. The coming together of choristers from almost 30 countries, to sing this sublime

piece of music, accompanied by an orchestra founded on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and whose members represent as many different countries as there were instruments, was an experience that touched my soul. The fact that we were in Berlin, a city that has witnessed humanity's worst potentials and most benevolent attributes, highlighted the eloquence of the lyrics throughout its 13 movements.

I was in awe of the fact that I was singing with almost 2500 voices. Sir Karl Jenkins was kind but exacting, and after the first day of rehearsal with him said, "You've made an old man very happy," which drew a huge collective chuckle.

The Armed Man, a story that portrays events that form the genesis of war; preparations for war; combat itself in all of its theaters; the destruction and loss in the aftermath, as well as the joy that attends the end of war; and finally the hope and prayer that peace be ours forevermore; is an experience of sight and sound, with the visuals displayed on five huge screens situated above the chorus in a circular fashion. A poem written by Toge Sankichi, a Japanese man who witnessed and described the effect of the Hiroshima bomb, provided the text to the 8th movement, sung beautifully by young soprano Yumeji Matsufuji from Japan. The lyrics of ***Now the Guns Have Stopped*** are written by Guy Wilson of the Armouries Museum, now in Leeds, England, and was sung by Mezzo-Soprano Leah-Marian Jones. The cello solo of the ***Benedictus*** was performed in all its poignancy and virtuosity by Valentino Worlitzsch, for the 12th movement. Amir Aziz was situated at an elevated spot in the arena, with an effective but subtle spotlight on him, for the ***Call to Prayer*** in the 2nd movement. A special treat was hearing Pauline Rathmann, a junior in high school sing the ***Kyrie***.

Additionally, Sir Karl Jenkins was commissioned to compose a work for the **Swansea International Festival**. He was introduced to a poem written by a fourteen year old Syrian girl, Amineh Abouh Kerech, which moved him deeply, and he asked for her family's permission to set the poem to music, which was granted. This poem and the music was performed as part of the concert, and Amineh herself recited her poetry.

We owe gratitude to Daniel Canosa for introducing this beautiful music to our choir, giving us the opportunity to sing it at FPSA. From that experience came the opportunity to sing it again in Carnegie Hall, and finally in Berlin. What a journey it has been, with memories to last a lifetime!



The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, also known as the Holocaust Memorial, is a memorial in Berlin to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, designed by architect Peter Eisenman and engineer Buro Happold. (Wikipedia)

*Better is peace than always war
And better and better is peace

Ring out the thousand wars of old
Ring in the thousand years of peace

God shall wipe away all tears
And there shall be no more death nor sorrow*



CHURCH & SOCIETY

November 18, 2018 Ideas for Responding to the Camp Fire from Jim Kitchens, Interim Presbytery Executive of Sacramento Presbytery

For those of you who want to contribute to Camp Fire relief funds that support Bidwell Memorial Presbyterian as they help victims, you can donate electronically through the North Valley Community Foundation:

www.nvcf.org/fund/camp-fire-evacuation-relief-fund/

or the US Wildfire fund at Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA):

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/dr000165/>

...or through snail mail by sending a check made out to:

Presbytery of Sacramento
CAMP FIRE RELIEF FUND
9983 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento,
CA 95827

100% of the donations that come through the presbytery's relief fund will go directly to Bidwell.

Churches can also ask their members to begin assembling **disaster cleanup buckets** to be taken to the burn area. Please note that each bucket must contain exactly what is listed below. Please do not add any additional items. The Sacramento Presbytery Disaster Commission will arrange transportation of the buckets to Paradise.

- 1 – 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid* (Value \$75)
- 5 – scouring pads
- 7 – sponges, assorted sizes
- 1 – scrub brush

READ MORE!



SUNDAY SEMINARS

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report

In October, the IPCC laid out a set of observations, predictions and warnings that are more threatening and alarming than any announced before. This report will be the main focus of the UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland, December 2-14.

In order for us to have an accurate picture of the current status of global warming and climate change, members of the Climate Action Team will summarize the IPCC report as well as give responses of climate experts at a Sunday Seminar after worship December 2nd. Come and get a clear, factual picture of our climate situation.

- 1 – pkg. cleaning towels (18 reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- 1 – 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- 1 – liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®), 12 oz.
- 1 – bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®), 24-28 oz.
- 1 – 1 pkg. clothespins, 48-50 Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- 5 – dust masks
- 2 pair – latex gloves (like Playtex®)
- 1 pair – work gloves
- 1 – 24 to 28 count roll heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon, remove from carton)
- 1 – bottle insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion; not aerosol), 6-9 oz.

Please purchase all liquids in plastic bottles. Send only new, unopened materials. Put all items in the plastic bucket, packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape.

Another thing churches are doing to help with immediate need is collecting gift cards during Sunday services and sending them to Bidwell Memorial Presbyterian for distribution. Suggested gift cards include Walmart, Target, Raley's, Safeway, Chevron, Shell, and Amazon. Please share this opportunity with your church's leadership.

Please note: Session has approved a request to adopt a family and we will be learning more about what that is going to look like. The above suggestions are given for those who would like another way to help in the larger recovery effort.

WORSHIP

Tidings of Comfort Service, December 13, 6:30pm

Every year we honor the fact that for many people, Christmas does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised at the mall or on TV. People who are separated from loved ones, who have experienced a loss or health setback, who are unable to afford the Christmas our culture promotes, or who are suffering emotional pain may feel God's comfort in this relatively brief, more contemplative service. Do you know people who are grieving, or ill, or unemployed, or have painful memories of past Christmases? Do you know anyone who is finding it hard to hope? Consider recommending the Tidings of Comfort service to them. The service begins at 6:30pm in the sanctuary, and will conclude before choir rehearsal.

FELLOWSHIP

A Birthday Bash Thank You!

By Martha Olsen Joyce

On November 11, we gathered in the "Duncan Diner" for our annual all-church family dinner. This year we enjoyed a "retro diner" vibe, with good old fashioned comfort food like Cornbread Casserole, 4-bean salad, and dinner rolls – and a sing-along of oldie-but-goodie gems!

Our heartfelt thanks go to this year's organizers who planned, shopped, and graciously orchestrated every detail: Martha Wall and Margaret Melsh. We couldn't do it without the help of lots of wonderful folks: our head cook Emily Auchard, assisted by Martha Olsen Joyce, Laurie Buntain and Joanne Whitt in the kitchen; our salad makers Joan Flood and May Lynne Lim; our bean salad makers Margaret Melsh and Martha Wall; and Erica Heath for managing sign-ups, along with Lisa Della Valle, Diane Coughtry, and Margaret Melsh. We're grateful to those who loaned us the quilts (many of them made by Valda Whitman, Joan Basore, and Chris Francisco) that truly transformed Duncan Hall -- Sandy and Royce Truex, Mary Waetjen, Joan Basore, Inger Hewitt, Chris Francisco, and Judie Donovan; and to Karl Roulston and Martha Wall for hanging them; to Mike Joyce and David Conant, our gracious wine stewards; to our gracious greeters Sue Neil and Laurie Buntain; to Inger Hewitt and Margaret Melsh for the gift of wine; to Libby Davis for the cupcakes, to Dick Schlobohm for photographing, and to Maureen Kalbus for artfully arranging our flower decorations.

Thanks also to our musicians and songleaders: Linda Price and Robin Truitt of Firefly, and Martha Wall for enthusiastically leading the sing-along and to Patty Sempell on piano. And a special note of thanks to Joanne Whitt for compiling the "year in pictures."

We're grateful for all the person-power who helped set up and decorate tables: Al, Raquel and Aiden Nelson, Sandy and Royce Truex, Sita Khufu, David Conant, Karl Roulston, with a special shout-out to Al Nelson for setting up the sound system and projection capabilities; for our kitchen crew Jennifer Holm, Phyllis Schlobohm, Carol and John Cowperthwaite, and Suzan and Steve Plath; for our amazing YOUTH who served and cleared and pitched in everywhere; for our Chief Dishwasher David Conant, and for the veritable army of helpers who stayed behind to clean dishes, put away chairs and tables, and leave the place ship-shape in 30 minutes flat! You know who you are!

Thank you for helping, thank you for coming, and thank you for being a part of this wonderful church family!

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Fall 2018 Puerto Rico Mission Trip Report

by Lisa Cosby

Puerto Rico was struck by Hurricane Maria in September 2017, causing major damage across this Caribbean island. The residents of this US Territory are US citizens, and the currency is the US dollar.

After Hurricane Maria, the recovery effort for Puerto Rico was plagued with many issues that caused delayed and insufficient help. Even in the capital of San Juan, areas were without power for two months, and much of the island did not have running water and electricity for up to ten months.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance set up volunteer host sites for rebuilding damaged homes, and eleven people from our greater church community volunteered in Puerto Rico during the week of October 29 to November 2. The team included Lisa Cosby, Erica Heath, Dave Jones, Lisa Leavitt, Jillian Robinson and Lee Pollard from our congregation. We were joined by Karen Covey, Glen Dickey, Lisa Schlossberg, Dave Waetjen, and Nadine Watts.

The team worked on demolition of two hurricane-ravaged houses near Añasco on the west side of the island, and construction at a school being transformed into volunteer housing in the town of Moca. On Monday through Wednesday, we worked on a house that had lost its roof and suffered through the weather for over a year. It was high on a ridge, and tearing out the walls and floor was a precarious job. We met the residents Jeanette, her husband, and 14-month old baby, who were extremely grateful for our help. Three men from the neighborhood, Julio, Ramon and Joseph, salvaged some scrap lumber and then helped for two mornings.

On Thursday, we partially demolished a house near the beach, removing all of the wood that was remaining in this roofless house. The house will be rebuilt with cinder blocks soon for the grateful homeowner Juan. He is still living in two rooms of the house, and his sister lives downstairs. On Friday, we worked at a school that is being transformed into volunteer housing. Our team worked on framing interior walls, installing electrical wiring, and assembling bunkbeds with a challenging set of instructions. Throughout the week we also worked at the volunteer lodge on the church grounds, scraping old paint, painting, and clearing debris from the property.

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WORSHIP

Worship in December 2018

December 2 1st Sunday of Advent
Communion
"Make Room for the In-Between"
Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Neutral Pulpit Guest Preachers, preaching

December 9 2nd Sunday of Advent
Choir Concert
"Make Room for the Unexpected:
O Magnum Mysterium"
Luke 3:1-6

December 13 Tidings of Comfort Service
6:30pm "Make Room for the Really Real"
Psalm 42:1-5
Matthew 11:28-30
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

A worship service for those for whom the holidays are a difficult time, those who are grieving, those who are lonely, and those who stand in solidarity with them.

December 16 3rd Sunday of Advent
FAMILY SUNDAY
"Make Room for Enough"
Luke 3:7-18
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching
Coat Drive Sunday

December 23 4th Sunday of Advent
"Make Room for Mercy"
Luke 1:39-55
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching

December 24 Christmas Eve
6:00pm Family Christmas Eve Service and Pageant

9:00pm Candlelight Service
Lessons and Carols

December 30 First Sunday After Christmas
"Failing Nature's Trust"
1 Samuel 2:22-26
Psalm 148
The Rev. Douglas Olds, preaching



Worship in January 2019

January 6 Epiphany
Communion
"The Other Christmas Story"
Matthew 2:1-12
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching

January 13 Baptism of the Lord
TBA
Isaiah 43:1-7
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Heather Gordon, Intern, preaching

January 20 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
FAMILY SUNDAY
"Everyone Is Different; Everyone Belongs."
Amos 5:14-15, 21-24
Matthew 5:43-45
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching

January 27 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
"The Work of the Body"
1 Corinthians 12:12-31
Luke 4:14-21
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching



Continued from Page 1

- How might we make room for God's abundance and generosity?
- How might we make room for all of God's beloved children?
- How might we make room for whatever God is doing that is new?
- How might we make room for a wider perspective, a bigger heart, a more open mind?
- How might we make room for transformation and growth?
- How might we make room for Christ, who always and continually comes into our lives?

Together we serve,
Joanne



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...Puerto Rico

Along with our work, we had humorous moments discovering the local grocery stores, cooking dinner in the beautiful volunteer housing, La Posada de Angeles, or Angels' Lodge, buying sandwiches at local bakeries, and dodging the crazy driving. Swimming in the Caribbean almost every afternoon gave us welcome relief from the heat. We enjoyed the local cuisine, hospitality, and sightseeing. Many beautiful historic buildings reminiscent of Spain exist in Old San Juan and the southern city of Ponce. (Puerto Rico remained a Spanish province until the Spanish-American war, and Spain ceded it to the US in 1898.)

Our team is grateful for our experiences helping our fellow people in this time of great need, and for the opportunity to visit such a beautiful place. We also express our thanks for the support from our church's mission funds for this effort.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00am
(Nursery Care)

The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt

Pastor and Head of Staff

The Rev. Doug Olds

Parish Associate

Laurie Buntain

Church Accountant

Daniel Canosa

Director of Music

Heather Gordon

Director of Youth Ministries and

Seminary Intern

Tom Lannert

Church Custodian

Joanna Magee

Office Administrator

Audrey Mahler

Sexton

Natsuko Murayama

Organist

Patrick O'Connor

Godly Play Teacher

Martha Spears

Coordinator of

Older Adult Ministries

Mary Wright Gillespie

Associate Pastor Emerita

Sally Johnson

Director of Music Emerita

KENSINGTON PRESS

Virginia Thibaux

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Joanna Magee

Production

Richard Schlobohm

Photographer

Frank Ferguson &

Barbara Shindelus

Mailing

First Presbyterian
SAN ANSELMO

25th Annual Women's Retreat
May 3rd, 4:00pm – May 4th, 4:00pm

Words to Live By

Guest Speaker
The Rev. Cornelia Cyss-Carter, Ph. D

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